

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02

L-01 PM-03 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-10

PRS-01 /054 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8666

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

DIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONGEN ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2695

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED TURKISH PROVOCATIONS OVER GREEK ISLANDS

REF: A) ATHENS 2606 (NOTAL); B) ATHENS 2603 (NOTAL)

1. A CHECK OF THE MAP OF THE IMMEDIATE TURKISH COASTLINE BRINGS HOME WHY TURKISH SENSITIVITY OVER GREEK ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLANDS MENTIONED IN REFTELS IS SO GREAT. ALL THREE OF THESE ISLANDS ARE PRACTICALLY TOUCHING THE TURKISH MAINLAND. USING MASSACHUSETTS GEOGRAPHY AS AN ANALOGY, CITIZENS THERE WOULD  
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BE UNDERSTANDABLY INTERESTED IN WHAT WAS TAKING PLCE MILITARILY

ON MARTH'S VINEYARD AND NANTUCKET IF THESE TWO ISLANDS WERE IN HOSTILE HANDS (ALL THREE OF THE GREEK ISLANDS IN QUESTION ARE, I BELIEVE, CLOSER TO THE MAINLAND THAN NANTUCKET).

2. UNFORTUNATELY, THE TURKS ARE CONVINCED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THAT THE GREEKS ARE INCREASING THEIR MILITARY BUILDUP IN THESE LOCATIONS. THE TURKS CONSIDER THIS A PROVOCATIVE ACT ON THE PART OF THE GREEKS AND THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE TURKS CAN BE DISSUADED FROM KEEPING A CLOSE CHECK ON THIS ALLEGED BUILDUP. WHAT WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, IS TO HAVE THE VIGILANCE CARRIED OUT IN A LESS PROVOCATIVE MANNER (I.E., BECAUSE OF THE CLOSENESS OF THE ISLANDS, THE TURKS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONDUCT REASONABLY SATISFACTORY AERIAL SURVEILLANCE WHILE STAYING IN THEIR OWN AIR SPACE).

3. IF WE WERE TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO THIS EFFECT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD TELL THE GOT THAT WE WERE ALSO ASKING THE GOG TO REFRAIN FROM FURTHER ACTIONS ON THESE ISLANDS WHICH THE TURKS COULD REASONABLY REGARD AS PROVOCATIVE. FONMIN-DESIGNATE CAGLAYANGIL WILL BE BACK FROM THE RCD MINISTERIAL MEETING (TURKEY-IRAN-PAKISTAN) THIS WEEKEND AND I WILL BE SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT SOON AFTER THAT. I COULD IF SO INSTRUCTED, RAISE THIS SUBJECT, IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER TOPICS I WILL BE COVERING, IN THAT MEETING.  
MACOMBER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, MILITARY BUILDUP, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ANKARA02695  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750117-0071  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 86  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 75 ATHENS 2606, 75 (NOTA ATHENS 2603  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGED TURKISH PROVOCATIONS OVER GREEK ISLANDS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MILI, TU, CY, GR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006